



Established 1871.

RALEIGH, N. C., TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 1902.

Vol. XXV. No. 30.

The Cotton Situation.

March 28, 1902.

The following fact in regard to the cotton situation gathered during the recess of the Legislature, and in view of the recent decline and partial recovery, be found of interest.

PRESENT CROP.

The report published yesterday, in the Raleigh Journal of Commerce says that the cotton crop is being estimated at 2,500,000 bales. This estimate is based on the fact that the cotton crop is being estimated at 2,500,000 bales. This estimate is based on the fact that the cotton crop is being estimated at 2,500,000 bales.

By State Messrs. Ayer & Co.'s figures on acreage and fertilizers are as follows:

No. P. C. Dec. P. C. Dec. P. C. Dec. P. C. Dec.

Ala. 72 72 91 72 72 91 72 91 72

Ark. 52 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10

Cal. 32 8 1-3 10 9 9 9 9 9

La. 33 2 2 4 7 7 7 7 7

Miss. 76 6 15 10 10 10 10 10 10

N. C. 65 13 17 10 10 10 10 10 10

S. C. 65 11 20 8 8 8 8 8 8

Texas 26 3 none used 8 8 8 8 8

L. T. 15 6 inc. 1 1 1 1 1

No report.

CONSUMPTION.

The following figures made up by Mr. A. Harvey, of London, in regard to the world's requirements and supply of cotton to the end of the season presents one of the clearest and most easily comprehended statements of the situation that I have seen:

AMERICAN COTTON.

Requirements.

(in thousands.)

Great Britain

Requirements for season.....3,000

taken to 14th March.....1,620

present stock and afloat 1,380

Great Britain.....1,158

So Great Britain still requires..... 222

Continental

Requirements for season.....3,700

taken to 14th March.....2,184

present stock and afloat 1,516

Continent..... 851

So Continental still requires..... 665

U. S. A. & Canada

Requirements for season.....4,150

taken to 14th March.....2,831

So U. S. A. & Canada still require, 1,319

Japan, India, Mexico, etc.

Requirements for season..... 200

taken to 14th March..... 124

So Japan, India, Mexico etc., still require 76

PRODUCTION.

U. S. A. crop.....10,250

and present insight (14th March) 8,590

there is still to come insight..... 1,260

present stock at interior and ports, U. S. A. 1,158

Total supplies for balance of season 2,418

Total requirements as above..... 2,282

Leaving visible supply all over the world 31st August, 1902..... 136m

126m being the crop must either exceed 104 or consumption must be reduced somewhere? Question is where?

COMPARATIVE STOCKS AT UNAC-COUNTED TOWNS:

Journal of Commerce report as of March 22, 1902.

Towns Stock

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Mo.	18	1,789	9,265
Totals	662	226,386	502,923
Theodore H. Price's report as of March 14, 1902.			
Towns		Stock	
report. Present same time ing. stock. last year.			
Ala.	60	42,974	83,227
Ark.	55	29,324	76,016
Georgia	76	25,791	67,235
La.	24	22,690	21,818
Miss.	57	41,268	82,591
N. Car.	48	12,248	29,963
S. Car.	64	17,851	49,787
Tenn.	20	4,211	12,476
Texas	181	77,835	263,895
Okl. & T. & Mo.	28	2,383	14,489
Totals	612	276,395	692,487

The close correspondence between the two sets of figures is most remarkable, both as to localities, totals and relative percentages, and there is no escape from the conclusion that the present crop is one of the smallest per acre that has ever been produced, and that it has been, and continues to be, unique in the rapidity with which it has been marketed.

THEODORE H. PRICE.

Some Errors in Regard to Fertilizers.

(By R. J. Redding.)

Some writers on agriculture advise farmers to always "broadcast" the fertilizers regardless of the kind of crop, or whether the latter be planted in rows or broadcast.

Most practical farmers, however, have a sort of intuitive perception that it is better, especially when the amount of fertilizer to be applied is moderate, to place it near to the young plants, so that the first rootlets that put forth will find a supply of soluble plant food just at hand and will not have to search the whole width of a 4 or 5 or 6 foot row to get what they need. When a very heavy application of commercial fertilizer is to be made it is probably safer to scatter the same over a larger portion of the surface than that represented by the length and width of the bedding furrow. For instance, if the amount per acre be more than 500 pounds and not over 1,000 pounds, it would be well to divide it into two or more portions, placing one-third or one-half in the bedding furrow and the remainder in the listing furrows. But it would have to be 1,500 or 2,000 pounds per acre before it would be advisable to scatter it all over the surface. Of course, I am now referring to such crops as corn, potatoes, cotton, sorghum, etc., planted in rows from 3 to 6 feet apart.

The advocates of the broadcasting idea seem to have no broader foundation for their advice and contention than the mere sound of the word "broad" and its derivatives. Broad Gauge, "broad-minded," "broad views," seem to negative anything that is "narrow." Facts are what we should insist upon, and these abundantly show that fertilizers in moderate quantity should be placed in the drill and well mixed with the soil of the furrow.

2. Another somewhat popular notion is that the fertilizer should be divided into two or more portions, one portion to be applied before or at the time of planting the crop and the other portion at successive periods of the cultivation and growth of the crop. The idea is that if the whole amount be applied at one time, before or at the time of planting the plants will gorge themselves, so to speak, or consume all the fertilizer during the early period of growth, and will suffer hunger before fruiting time. According to the results of many tests that have been made this fear is rather groundless. Some hold back a portion of the fertilizer intended for corn until near sowing time under the belief that such late application will cause a large development of ears. There is somewhat more in this idea than in the broadcasting practice; yet the results that have come under my observation do not, as a rule, justify such division and successive application of fertilizers to either corn or cotton, excepting that nitrate of soda will sometimes produce quick striking results when applied even so late as June 15. I recall an experiment made in 1892 which is the basis of the above remark. One acre was fertilized in the drill quite liberally before planting. At the first plowing—April 27—one-half of the acre received 65 pounds of nitrate of soda; at the third plowing—June 13—the same half acre received an additional dose of 65 pounds of nitrate. The result was an increased yield of only 1.50 bushels of corn, or three bushels per acre. But the nitrate half acre made a good after crop of grass, amounting to 900 pounds of cured hay, while the unfertilized half acre made no grass of consequence. This result showed that the nitrate applied as early as April 27 and June 13 was not consumed by the corn crop, but went mainly into the grass that came up after June 13.

3. Another very common error is that one kind of fertilizing ingredient can take the place of another. For instance, some want to know if kainit or muriate of potash may not be substituted for nitrate of soda as a top-dressing for small grain. If a plant is hungry for phosphoric acid, or a soil is deficient in that ingredient, nothing in the shape of a fertilizer can supply that deficiency unless it contain phosphoric acid.

4. The question is occasionally asked "Is there any difference between the effectiveness of acid phosphate made from animal bones and one made from phosphate rock?" The answer is there is none whatever, provided the percentage of available phosphoric acid be the same in each case. Phosphoric acid, soluble, and phosphoric acid, reverted, which together make up the "total available" of a fertilizer, are each definite chemical salts and are always and everywhere just the same. Sugar made from beets

("beet sugar") and sugar made from "sugar cane," each being pure, are identically the same in chemical composition and sweetening power, although the one may have been made from beets grown in Canada and the other from sugar cane grown in Louisiana. (By the way, most of the white sugar consumed in the United States, although "cane sugar," chemically speaking, is made from beets.)

5. It is a very serious mistake to conclude that a soil can be steadily and permanently improved by the constant and liberal use of commercial fertilizers alone, applied to a clean culture crop, like cotton. There must be rotation of crops, including cowpeas, or other rotating crops, deep and thorough plowing, and stable manures. Thousands of farmers who have used commercial fertilizers year after year on the same field, planted annually in cotton, can testify that it usually requires even larger and larger doses of these concentrated fertilizers to keep up the annual yield of cotton.

6. Coming to barn yard manures, it is a very widely prevailing error that their value is due to the quantity of plant food contained in them. As a matter of fact, the quantity of actual plant food contained in one ton of average barn yard manure would be supplied by about 100 pounds of cotton meal, 40 pounds of high-grade acid phosphate and 20 pounds of muriate of potash, which may be bought in the market for about \$1.80. It is the presence in the barn yard manure of bacterial ferments and decaying organic matter which induce chemical changes in the soil that give it its chief value. It is probable that the \$1.80 worth of the three commercial ingredients, mixed in proper proportions, would produce a larger yield of the current year than one ton of good stable manure as ordinarily applied.

RIOTS AT TA MING FU.

Thousand People Said to Have Been Killed Battle Over Collecting Indemnities

(By the Associated Press.)

Pekin, March 29.—Chinese officials say that a thousand people have been killed in riots at Ta Ming Fu, the southernmost prefecture of the province of Chi Li. This, perhaps, is an exaggeration, but the loss of life was undoubtedly great.

The riots were due to attempts of local officials to collect indemnities for the Catholics as arranged between the officials and the priests.

Soldiers have been dispatched to quell the disturbances, and a tatar has been sent to adjust the differences.

The officials warn the missionaries to keep out of the disturbed district.

Such resistance to the payment of missionary claims is to be expected in localities where the population is poor and large sums are levied.

TO FIGHT THE CIRCUIT COURT.

United Mine Workers Prepare for a Struggle in Virginia.

(By the Associated Press.)

Indianapolis, March 29.—The United Mine Workers are making preparations for a contest with the United States Circuit Court of Virginia, and action may be taken next week. A few days ago the judge of the district, sitting at Lynchburg, found John Haddock, of Iowa, and W. H. Webber, of Illinois, national organizers of the miners, guilty of contempt of court, and gave each a six months jail sentence. The finding of the court was that these men had violated an order, restraining them from efforts to unionize the miners.

Secretary Wilson says the organization, if necessary, will employ the best counsel in the United States to fight for the release of the two men. The matter probably will be taken up at the meeting of the national executive board in this city, April 1th.

The court, Wilson says, issued an injunction against the organizers on the ground that the Mine Workers' organization wanted to unionize the Virginia miners, merely for the purpose of adding the organization in the Northern States in its struggle, and that, accordingly, the efforts constitute a conspiracy.

THE DAY IN THE HOUSE.

Bill Increasing Efficiency of the Revenue Cutter Service

(By the Associated Press.)

Washington, March 29.—The House devoted most of today to the bill increasing the efficiency of the revenue cutter service, but did not complete its consideration. The opening argument was made by Mr. Sherman (N. Y.). Speeches were made in its favor by Messrs. Miner (Wis.), and H. C. Smith (Miss.), and against it by Messrs. Richardson (Ala.), Little (Ark.), Cochran (Mo.), and Mann (Ill.).

Agreement Fixing Rates.

(By the Associated Press.)

New York, March 29.—Local agents of English and Continental steamship lines received official notification today that the agreement on minimum passenger rates, which was finally effected last week on the other side, would go into effect Monday, March 31. The agreement contains provision lengthening the summer season. This season, during which rates are 25 per cent higher than the winter, will last from May to October on west-bound routes, and from April to October 1 in east-bound. The only important change is a discriminating increase on some of the larger ships of the express lines.

Bill Arp's Letter.

(Copyrighted, 1901, by The Constitution.)

Now you young people, girls and boys, excuse me for telling you a story about the old times. Sixty-four years ago, when I was 12 years old, my father was the postmaster in our town and had to make contracts for carrying the mail to other neighboring towns. He gave these contracts to needy men and the pay was generally one dollar a day. One of these men got sick and my father made me take his place and ride the mail to Rosewell all winter. It was 25 miles away and I had to ride there and back in a day, and he paid me the dollar for every trip. It was a bitter winter and sometimes when I got home I had to be helped off of the horse, for I was frozen up and helpless. But I was a tough and hardy boy and always ready for the next trip. On my first ride the good old woman on my route did not know me. They used to knit socks and send them to town by the old man to sell and carry back some coffee or sugar or indigo, or copra, or some little thing, but they didn't know me, and I remember that one old woman came out to the gate and said: "Are you the mail boy?" I laughed and said: "Yes, mam, I am after coffee, sugar, indigo, and copra." "You are mighty little to carry bundles, but I would like for you to take a couple of pairs of socks and bring me back the pay in coffee if you will. I'll give you a little bag to put it in and you can hang it on to the horn of the saddle." Of course I did, for I always liked to oblige the women, and besides my father kept a store and got the trade. Sometimes I had as much outside of the mail bag as there was inside. I made fourteen silver dollars that winter and felt rich.

But I want to tell you about the mail business as it was then. There were no stamps or stamped envelopes—nor any other kind of envelopes. We wrote on a long paper called foolscap. It got that name from the watermark which was a fool's cap and bells stamped on the paper. After writing we could fold the sheet up to the size of a letter and slip one fold in the other—thumb paper fashion—then seal it with a wafer and address it. The wafers were round and thin and were made of flour paste and when held on the tongue a moment got soft and sticky. In my young days the postage was paid at the end of the line by the one who received the letter. It was 12 1-2 cents if it did not come or go outside of the State—18 3-4 if from or to an adjoining State and 25 cents if still farther off. But if it was to go to California it had to be prepaid and sent by Wells and Fargo's express and cost a dollar and was a month on the way. Just think of it. Now it costs only 2 cents and takes only four days. That overland express almost made us boys crazy. They published a book called "Ten Years Among the Mail Bags" and it had pictures in it—pictures of the boys riding the mail on Indian ponies—riding on a run of 10 miles in an hour, and then he was lifted off of his pony and put on a fresh one for another 10 miles. The boys had to weigh not less than sixty nor over ninety pounds and had to make 40 miles a day—20 east and 20 west. It took about two hundred boys and four hundred ponies to do the work and I wanted to be one of the boys mighty bad. Part of the route was beset by hostile Indians and the express company had to keep soldiers at these stations to guard the ponies, and the boys had to have a sharp lookout between the stations. One of the pictures showed some Indians shooting at a boy as he bent over on the pony's neck and was flying like the wind. He had left the track and taken roundabout on them and I thought that was heroic.

The letters were limited to a single sheet of paper and a thousand to a bag and that made about twenty pounds of mail. Besides the mail there were some two-penny backs with two drivers and guns and these carried gold dust from the mines to the Eastern States and were limited to two hundred pounds, which was worth nearly \$50,000 and was a tempting prize to both white and Indian robbers. But the gold express ran at irregular intervals and nobody knew when it was coming.

But now about postage. Not many foolish letters were written in those days. It cost too much and made the man mad who had to pay 25 cents or 18 3-4 or 12 1-2 cents for it. The next one the writer would send would not be taken out and would go to Washington as a dead letter. I reckon you wonder why the postage was in such curious amounts. Well, we didn't have any decimal currency then—no dimes or half dimes. The dollar was divided into sixteen parts instead of twenty; one part was called a tripe, which was 6 1-4 cents. Tripe is an abbreviation for threepence. Two parts was called a sevenpence and its value was 12 1-2 cents. I don't believe I have seen a tripe or a sevenpence in fifty years. The government called them all in and issued dimes and half dimes instead.

In reminiscing about the wonderful change in our postal laws since I was a boy I am prepared to say that nothing that has been discovered or invented has wrought such beneficial results and so much comfort to the people. What pleasure at home is more valued than the reception of letters from kindred and friends who are far away? Postage is only one-tenth what it used to be, but there are twenty times as many letters written by every person who can write and there are ten times as many to be read. The great northern mail used to take two or three weeks to get to a single sack in the boot of a stage contained it. Now five times that quantity comes twice a day. I used to write about two letters a week and now I write

twenty-five or thirty and receive more than I write. For I have quit answering many letters that include no stamp. The number of letters increases faster than the postage decreases. When the postage had to be paid at the end of the line it was pretty hard to receive a disagreeable letter and have to pay for it. My father was a merchant for nearly fifty years and sold goods on a year's time, and sometimes we had to write dunning letters to his customers. He wrote one to a very slow man and got no answer, so he wrote another and the slow man wrote back that he would have to wait until he made another crop, and as postage was high and silver was scarce, he advised a very limited correspondence. He wrote another to a belated customer at Warsaw and another and another and then got a reply which said:

"I have received your letters, but they were a long time on the way. If you had sent them round by Atlanta and Marietta and Rosewell I would have gotten them sooner, for we have two mails a week by that route, but only one by the way you sent them. Hereafter you had better send them that way. Our mail system is very imperfect. It takes six weeks for me to get a letter from Jack, who is in the Arkansas. You remember Jack. But I am always glad to hear from you, your friend."

"P. S.—As for that account of last year, which you say has run a long time—as the boy said to the molasses, just let her run."

I wonder if our young people know who was our first postmaster general? He was the postmaster general before the revolution and was turned out by King George because he was suspected of being a rebel and his name was Benjamin Franklin. When the Declaration of Independence was passed he established an independent line and boycotted the English system and afterwards organized a system of four own. Sir Rowland Hill was the postmaster general of England and in 1734 established what was called the penny post. Before that the English merchants hired men to carry their letters. When the battle of the Waterloo was fought the Rothschilds hired private carriers to bring them the news of the great battle. English credit and bonds and consols were then away down to 25 cents on the dollar, for Napoleon was just running rough shod over kingdoms and governments. The Rothschilds got the news of his defeat twenty-four hours sooner than the bankers of London and they secretly bought up all the bonds and stocks and consols they could find, and when the good news came of the great victory these bonds and stocks jumped up to par in a day and the Rothschilds made many millions and this was the beginning of their great fortune. It was a mean, dirty trick, but they didn't care. For nearly a century they have controlled the finances of the civilized world and nations could not go to war without consulting the Rothschilds. But now they have to take a back seat for Pierpont Morgan and Rockefeller and a few others can control more money than they can. But our postage has not yet got to the lowest notch. The people say it must be reduced to 1 cent, and a bill has been introduced in Congress to that effect and letters will soon be delivered at almost every man's house if he lives on a public highway. Verily, it passeth comprehension. I received a letter and a paper this morning from Australia. They had come 12,000 miles for 6 cents and found me, although there are half a dozen Cartersvilles in the United States. There is no system so perfect as the postal system and no man can steal from it without being caught.

BILL ARP.

FIGHT WITH THE HATFIELDS.

A Desperate Encounter in Which Four Men Are Reported Killed.

(By the Associated Press.)

Williamson, W. Va., March 29.—Sensational reports were received here about another fight with the Hatfields, in which four were killed, among them being Harry Watts, proprietor of the Palace Hotel here.

John Rutherford, a detective, had a warrant for the arrest of Ephraim Hatfield, who is wanted in South Carolina. He finally located Hatfield in Pike County, Kentucky. Watts went with Rutherford and they found Ephraim at the home of his father, Thompson Hatfield, on Blackberry Creek. Rutherford and Watts broke in the door and secured Ephraim, when the father opened fire on them. Both officers and both Hatfields were killed. The wife and little children witnessed the tragedy. The Rutherfords were relatives of "Cap" Hatfield of feud fame. Rutherford was a brother of the two Rutherfords killed at the election in 1895 by "Cap" Hatfield. Watts was well known throughout the southern part of the State. He was wealthy and popular. It is said he could have saved himself had he not accepted a argument when his range. The excitement among the feudists is as great as at the time of the burning of the McCoys at the stake by the Hatfields years ago and more trouble is expected.

Fight Six Rounds to a Draw.

(By the Associated Press.)

Chicago, March 29.—The six round fight held tonight at the Chicago Athletic Club between Eddie Connelly and Owen Ziegler, ended in a draw. The fighting was very ven throughout the contest.